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JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

A settlement of the immediate question between Japan and Russia, by the extension of reciprocal freedom of action to Russia in Manchuria and to Japan in Korea, in the nature of things could only be temporary. The vital issue, in which all civilized powers, and especially the United States and Great Britain, are interested, and which in the future is of the greatest moment to Japan itself, would still remain unsolved.

A careful examination of the map of Asia, in its relation to the progressive world, will demonstrate the accuracy of this proposition. Asia includes about one-third of the dry land upon the globe, extending from the Arctic circle to the equator, and one hundred and sixty-five degrees of longitude. Large portions of its surface have already been appropriated or brought "within the sphere of influence" of European nations. The heterogeneous empire of China, covering one-fifth or thereabouts of the habitable part of the earth, between the Himalayan mountains and the Eastern and Yellow Seas, is undoubtedly to be the center of the commercial and intellectual activity, which great and progressive statesmen and observing and thoughtful men in all spheres of life are anticipating, and which is destined rapidly to establish the supremacy of the Pacific.

The Chinese government, antique and externally despotic, is in reality a rope of sand. The authority centered at Peking, apparently rigid and inelastic, and invested with the gorgeousness and endless elaboration of the East, nevertheless exerts little pressure upon the bulk of the enormous population of the empire, which, in the ultimate analysis, has one local ruler to a million of inhabitants. The system, if such it may be called, is simply a rigid shell, thin to attenuation, and enclosing elements that already begin to ferment in the light and heat of the Twentieth Century. That a change will occur and that the wall of partition between a threadbare antiquity and advancing civilization will speedily be broken down, are evident facts. Under these conditions, the predominance of the Muscovite or of enlightened nations, representing dominant races, is the pivot of permanent adjustment. Japan is clearly to be ranked with Teutonic aspirations and movements.

Korea is a peninsula between the Yellow and the Japan seas, lying face to face with Japan, and at its southwestern extremity of the Japanese Empire, with free access to the North Pacific Ocean. About the only practical result that accrued to Japan, as the result of its war with China, ten years ago, was the substantial transference of effective influence to the island government. It was Russia that interfered then to minimize the Japanese victory. It has been Russia that, ever since, while pushing its designs in Manchuria, has engaged in a desperate political struggle against Japan in the peninsula. Japan needs openings for its surplus population and, just now, the Korean branch of the controversy may have the greatest importance. But it is Manchuria that is the key to the whole Chinese situation, and it is in that Chinese dependency that the door to commerce and its influences, and to the spread of Japanese development, moving in unison with the United States and Great Britain and other leading powers, must finally be opened or closed.

In possession of Manchuria, with the vast Mongolian desert on the south and west, with the port of Vladivostok directly opposite to Hakodadi, and the Asiatic part of its huge territory on the north, Russia will occupy an almost impregnable position and will hold Peking at its mercy. The destiny of the Chinese Empire and the international conflict between monopoly and freedom, therefore, are plainly involved in the discussion now proceeding between the two empires, and no durable peace can be attained by the proposed adjustment, as cabled. Russia will have to settle with other powers, as well as with Japan, before the Czar can rule out the remainder of the world and become the arbiter of Chinese destiny. Meanwhile, the most accurate observers and thinkers in the United States and in Europe scent great danger, through the lack of prompt and decisive action, in the opportunity for preparation that delay secures to Russia. If these opinions are to be estimated, as they deserve, it appears that mature public sentiment in Japan, which recently broke all precedents and compelled the dissolution of the Japanese Parliament, is in advance of the administration of the government.

The Hepburn Pure Food bill, which has passed the House, has a special bearing upon trade in Territories. It can deal with that but not with the trade of individual States.

Dr. Humphris informs the Advertiser that the name of the English Viscount who was mentioned in the cablegrams as Helmsley is probably Helmsley.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE AS VIEWED BY CANADIANS

The Montreal Witness says: One of the reckless despatches which flow from Washington to certain New York papers in such profusion, and thence to the world in general, asserts that the administration is preparing to post a "Hands Off" sign on South and Central America, which will be so big and plain that every nation on earth can read and understand it. The Monroe doctrine is to be enforced, both in letter and spirit, in the fullest sense in which it can be interpreted, and no repetition of the Venezuela incident, or anything closely approaching it is to be permitted. This would seem to be apropos of possible attempts on the part of Great Britain and France to compel Honduras to pay its debts, or of Germany to gain a foothold in South America. Just how the European bondholders are to secure their money if the little republics refuse to pay up, and if the United States will not allow the treatment that was given to Venezuela to be repeated, is a matter for other nations to worry about, the despatch says, for the President and his advisers have decided on the policy of "hands off." In other words the United States is to constitute herself the champion of robbers and repudiators. She will neither permit other nations to protect their own interests nor will she take the responsibility of protecting them. No question of right enters into her thoughts. She is simply an outlaw. For this purpose we are told that a powerful fleet will patrol the Caribbean Sea. Nothing, it is added, could more forcibly show the determination of the administration to protect the republics of South America from foreign interference, as well as from foreign invasion, than the official announcement of this programme. The belligerency of it has had a curious echo from Honolulu, where General MacArthur, of the United States army, confided to Colonel Jones, who reported the conversation to Governor Carter, of the Hawaiian Islands, his belief that war would occur between the United States and Germany in the immediate future.

Colonel Jones's report quotes General MacArthur as saying that the Pan-Germanic doctrine, which is being spread throughout the world, is fostered and propagated by the Imperial Government in every possible way. It is strong and growing stronger wherever German people settle, even among Germans long settled in the United States. The fact that few Germans enlisted in the army during the war with Spain was mentioned by General MacArthur as showing the trend of German feeling. He also referred to the systematic manner in which German emigration was being directed to South America, and to the advance in German commercial power and prestige throughout that continent. He therefore considered the conclusion inevitable that the interests of Germany in South America, where she has large colonies numbering hundreds of thousands, presages another testing of the Monroe doctrine, and in all probability a contest of arms between that power and the United States in the near future. What would be the attitude of Britain and other European nations in such an event, General MacArthur was unable to forecast. But he held it to be the duty of the United States to make herself as strong as possible, so as to care for herself in any emergency. Should this augury of a United States general set the heather on fire in Germany it will not be due to any importance that will be attached to the opinion, but to the lack of dignity and wisdom shown in embodying such commonplace after-dinner talk in a published report. Such speculations are entirely in order in private conversation, and are indulged in only to be forgotten. No German who reads a newspaper ever ceases to forecast the political chess-board. It is, however, a straw revealing the prevailing current of the political wind in the direction of jingoism.

THE DECLINING WAR SPIRIT.

Wars and rumors of wars are getting to be like the cry of "Wolf" in the fable. There is much scare but no foray of the beast. Within the year everybody expected a war between Turkey and Bulgaria, but after a few frontier skirmishes and much interference in the Ottoman province of Macedonia, the powers induced peace and the clouds dispersed.

Now we are having a sudden burst of friendly diplomacy between Russia and Japan. But a fortnight ago war was looked for within twenty-four hours. All the preliminary signs—vast purchases of war material, navies cleared for action, quest of loans, a belligerent press, a search for purchasable battleships and cruisers, the flocking of war correspondents to the front—all these signs were present. But now comes the sober second thought. The diplomats agree that war would be mutually disastrous and indecisive. They think they can reach a basis of compromise.

While, as pointed out elsewhere in this paper, the certainty of future friction between Russia and Japan may be taken for granted, the lesson taught by recent events cannot be ignored. War is not as popular as it used to be. Once it was the chief avenue of distinction, the one thing beside statecraft which employed great and active minds. Now there are many broad roads to fame and the best minds are engaged in commerce, which needs peace for its development. Furthermore, civilization has made other prizes than those of killing people and burning property, seem more attractive. Taking all these circumstances together with the further facts that most nations are so deeply in debt that they cannot get loans for war expenses—Russia and Japan are not wholly outside this class—and that the modern machinery of war is so terrible as to vastly increase the probable mortality of battles; and finally that the prizes of success are likely to be wrested from the victor as they were from Russia in 1878 and Japan in 1894, to preserve the balance of power;—taking all these considerations into view and we find a trend of interest which, in the long run, may take a settlement of international disputes as surely out of the sphere of public war as a settlement of personal disputes has been removed from the sphere of private combat. Long ago the law stepped in between individuals, with their full consent and by their aid, to erect the court of justice. May it not soon intervene between quarrelling nations, to establish a like tribunal?

The favor with which the name of Captain Samuel Johnson has been received by the public in connection with the office of Road Supervisor is especially marked among the taxpayers. Capt. Johnson, as head of the garbage bureau, has not only done his work thoroughly but he has made, during the past year, a saving of \$5000 in the public feed bill. Incidentally he has found time to make his company of local troops the best in the National Guard and to render valuable services to the Republican party in the fifth precinct of the Fourth District. As Road Supervisor Capt. Johnson may be trusted to stop all graft, to attend to business and to put and keep the highways in as good condition as the money resources of the Territory will permit. If it is possible, in the interests of economy, to combine his present bureau with the proposed one—making garbage and road supervision go together—the arrangement would be ideal.

The motive of Senator Morgan in introducing a resolution providing for the annexation of the republic of Panama is not clear. The Senator from Alabama is stoutly opposed to the Panama canal and in favor of the old Nicaragua scheme; but if Panama should come into the Union its great project would thus be so far advanced that Nicaragua would have no more show. The question is, has Senator Morgan been converted, or is he trying, by dint of a threatening resolution, to rouse Panama's suspicion against the American canal-builders and thus embarrass the plans of the Government?

"Will the gentlemen please be seated in the aisle," thundered Speaker Cannon, the other day, as he was trying to restore the House of Representatives to order. His predecessors have usually requested gentlemen in the aisles to take their seats, but Mr. Cannon, in his more emphatic manner unwittingly commanded them to drop to the floor where they were. Not since Thomas B. Reed's first appearance as Speaker has the House had in that office a man of such vigorous individuality as Mr. Cannon. Other Speakers of the House have regularly used somewhat stilted phrases in their requests for order, such as "Cease conversation" and "Retire to the cloak-room," when they have really meant in the vernacular, "Keep quiet." Mr. Cannon is restoring the idiom as fast as possible. Unlike his predecessors, he does not bow profoundly to the secretary of the Senate when that functionary comes into the House to make an announcement of the Senate's action. The story is told that, when the new Speaker's coaches informed him that he must make a great bow, he answered that he did not bow to the United States Senate, and he would not to any of its secretaries.

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